

**MINUTES FROM SENATE BILL 627 WORK GROUP
AUGUST 4, 2014**

Attendance: Connie Cochran, Pat Finnerty, Senator Barker, Charlotte Barkley, Ann Bevan, Kim Goodloe, Suzanne Gore, Darlene Gunnell, Keith Hare, Angela Harvell, Bradford Hulcher, Peter Kinzler, Ann Kelly, Heidi Lawyer, Jane Powell, Gene Sivertson, Bill Murray (by phone), Delegate Campbell (by phone)

Absent: Delegate Dance, Delegate Filler-Corn, Delegate Leftwich, Jr., Senator Newman, Gail Hairston,

General Opening Discussion:

Introduction of members

Request for the permanent replacement of member who is experiencing challenges attending meetings with Bradford Hulcher, who offers the “parent” perspective of those with Autism spectrum disorder. Approved.

State goal of meeting is to get final consensus on the factors and name initial options. These can be finalized at the next meeting, along with a discussion of the interplay between factors and options. A fourth meeting can be scheduled if needed. Announced that corrections to the minutes of the last meeting will be distributed.

Discussion of factors to be considered in relation to each option and process for this. Focus on “How does each factor related to each option?” Each factor is then weighted as to importance (% of 100). Materials given to work group: data requests, comment from work group regarding draft language of factors, responses to information provided to members, and follow up from first meeting.

Department along with Facilitator worked to flesh out the factors as best they could then solicited feedback from the members and incorporated that into the working document. This is what will be reviewed today. Guiding principles: agree to stick to the 7 factors already identified and if a concept was specifically stated in a factor, it was left in, even if comments suggest it should be removed.

Comments on Factor 1:

- Why is the wording “including TC placement” there when it is implicit in the wording “all options be discussed”?
- Discussion about whether or not TC options are being conveyed to families
- Mr. Cochran indicated that this is happening now and that the discharge process clearly incorporates the continued TC placement as an option. If there is still a concern, the concern is an implementation issue not a policy problem.
- Concern about the wording that opportunities should be offered “in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of the person”.
- Facilitator noted that it will not be possible to word it exactly the way everyone wants it. The standard is, “Can I live with this?” “Is it o.k.?”

Comments on Factor 2:

- Could factors 1 and 2 be folded together?

- They may be weighted differently so it is best to keep them separate.
- Consensus is to keep them separate.

Comments on Factor 3:

- Does the group want to keep the language “including transfer from one TC to another”?
- Does not feel it includes people who are on the waiting list...they are left out.
- “comparable to the TC”. What about those who are not getting appropriate care in the community?
- The option for move from TC to TC only exists as long as TC’s exist.
- Clarified the code does not mandate that the state run a TC...that is up to the General Assembly
- Cautioned not to slant the language by eliminating one of the choices. If TC is not mentioned, people could interpret it as avoiding the TC option.

Comments on Factor 4:

- No consensus was obtained regarding the wording “right sized” and whether or not it should remain in the document.
- Let the minutes reflect that consensus was not reached on the language used in this factor regarding financial impact to the Commonwealth.
- General discussion as to whether a “vote” should be used to determine final language. Decision was made NOT to take an actual vote.
- We all can agree that it is not a well-funded system. We all agree that efficiency is important and any cost savings should go back into the system.

Comments on Factor 6:

- Concern over increases/decreases has no impact...changed to “provides reasonable geographic proximity” to family

Comments on Factor 7:

- Question about the term “livability”
- Decision made to delete Factor 7 because it was not quantifiable

Additional Factors Proposed:

- the addition of 2 more factors- State provides sufficient TC bed space to accommodate those who want it; and find out the number of AR’s who want continued TC placement.
- proposed to stay with the initial 6 factors.

Weighting Process:

- General discussion of the weighting process.

- General discussion about the how to weight the factors. The assigned weights will be reviewed again after the options are identified. Nothing is set in stone today.

Next meeting is set for September 5th.